



## U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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### NEWS RELEASE

United States Attorney Patrick L. Meehan and Philadelphia District Attorney Lynne Abraham today announced the filing of a four-count Indictment against Edward Wilford and Michael Houston, charging them with conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute five grams or more of cocaine base ("crack") and possession with intent to distribute five grams or more of cocaine base ("crack"). Wilford is also charged with carrying a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime and being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm.

This case was investigated by the Philadelphia Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms. This case is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods, a federal initiative to identify and prosecute firearm offenders in federal court, where the defendant is likely to receive a substantial sentence upon conviction. If convicted, the defendants face a maximum of lifetime imprisonment. Wilford is subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 20 years and Houston is subject to a mandatory minimum of 10 years.

#### INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANT

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE
Edward Wilford	Philadelphia	30
Michael Houston	Philadelphia	36

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant United States Attorney Vicki Markovitz.

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